

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 188716

FOLLOWING REPEAT BELGRADE 5352 ACTION SECSTATE AUG 8.

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 5352

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, YO, EFIN
SUBJECT: VISIT OF MOMCILO CEMOVIC TO U.S.

REFERENCE: (A) STATE 177527, (B) BELGRADE 5126
(C) STATE 184867

1. DCM YORK HAS MET CEMOVIC ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS
AND DESCRIBES CEMOVIC AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE. I'VE ALWAYS
FOUND CEMOVIC ACCESSIBLE AND FRIENDLY. HE HAS COME
TO OUR JULY 4TH RECEPTIONS FOR THE PAST SEVERAL
YEARS AND HAS ALWAYS GONE OUT OF HIS WAY TO BE
CORDIAL. HE HAS A WIDE CIRCLE OF FRIENDS, MANY OF THEM
FELLOW MONTENEGRINS AND IN THEIR COMPANY I'VE OBSERVED
HIM TO BE VERY GREGARIOUS, VERY WARM AND VERY WITTY.
HE IS A MAN OF CONSIDERABLE PRESENCE AND A GREAT
DEAL OF SELF ASSURANCE, BORDERING AT TIMES ON ARROGANCE.
ALTHOUGH HE HAS A DEGREE IN ECONOMICS, HE HAS NEVER
EXHIBITED A GREAT DEPTH OF UNDERSTANDING OR SHOPHSTICATION
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ABOUT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. THIS IS NOT TO SUGGEST
THAT HE IS IGNORANT ABOUT SUCH ISSUES, RATHER THAT
HIS PERSPECTIVE IS THAT OF A POLITICIAN NOT AN
ECONOMIST.
MY IMPRESSIONS COINCIDE WITH THOSE OF THE DEPARTMENT.
I DON'T BELIEVE THAT HE IS A MAJOR STRATEGIST OR
FORMULATOR OF BROAD ECONOMIC POLICY. RATHER HE IS AN

ADMINISTRATOR OR EXECUTOR OF OTHER PEOPLE'S PROGRAMS. IN HIS MINISTRY, HOWEVER, I HAVE THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT HE IS BOSS AND THAT HE, RATHER THAN HIS STAFF, IS THE FINAL DECISION-MAKER. HE IS USUALLY WELL BRIEFED AND HE CERTAINLY WILL BE ABLE TO CONVERSE INTELLIGENTLY ON SPECIFIC ISSUES. UNQUOTE.

2. CEMOVIC HAS TRAVELED WIDELY IN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CIRCLES (IMF AND IBRD) AND SHOULD HAVE SEVERAL ACQUAINTANCES IN WASHINGTON. RAYMOND ALBRIGHT OF EXIM HAS MET HIM SEVERAL TIMES AND SHOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL IMPRESSIONS.

3. (A) CEMOVIC WILL PROBABLY REVIEW THE GENERAL YUGOSLAV ECONOMIC SITUATION AND RECENT YUGOSLAV LEGISLATION IN THE FIELDS OF JOINT VENTURES, BANKING, AND FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVE OFFICES. (B) HE WILL BE PRIMED TO DISCUSS "INTERDEPENDENCE", NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES, AND SPECIFICALLY, WHAT THE U.S. HAS IN MIND AS A FOLLOW-UP TO CIEC. CEMEOVIC WILL TAKE THE LINE THAT CIEC ONLY PAPERED OVER THE REAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH AND THAT A NEW AND SINCERE EFFORT ON THE FACT OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS IS IMPERATOVE. SINCE GOY BELIEVES THE CIEC HAD NO VALUE ASIDE FROM GETTING THE NORTH AND SOUTH TO SIT DOWN TOGETHER, THEY MAINTAIN THAT WHAT

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LITTLE MOMENTUM WAS GENERATED IN PARIS MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO DISSIPATE.

4. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR INFORMATION THAT YUGOSLAVIA MAY REMAIN ELIGIBLE FOR OPIC INSURANCE. REQUEST THAT WE BE INFORMED OF OPIC BOARD DECISION SEPTEMBER 20 BY IMMEDIATE CABLE. IF GOY CUT OFF, EMBASSY WILL INFORM FINANCE MINISTRY BEFORE VISIT. EAGLEBURGER UNQUOTE

CHRISTOPHER

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